

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

**Lancaster County Growth Management Issues** August 27, 2007

**FYI**

## LANCASTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION ISSUES INTERIM REPORT

– The Commission, created by Lancaster County voters in the November 2006 election, was sworn in and held its first meeting on December 6, 2006. Since that time, the Commission has conducted over 30 public meetings and participated in numerous meetings with local municipal officials and county residents, traveling throughout the county to enhance citizen access, education, and input.

The Commission received [testimony](#) of over 55 current and former county officials, state and national officials, business and human service leaders, as well as hearing thoughts and concerns from citizens. (The testimony is available in text or audio format.)

The current form of county government was compared with both the Optional Forms of government and Home Rule Charter government to determine if the county government could be strengthened or made more clearly responsible or accountable to the people or whether its operation could become more economical or efficient under a change form of government – this has been an extensive study.

The [Interim Report to the Community](#), dated August 21, 2007, identifies six major areas of weaknesses – Representation and Accountability; Separation of Powers with Checks and Balances; Fragmentation of Authority, Citizen Input, County/State and County/Municipality Relationships and Fiscal Stewardship.

### Appendix Reports

- ❖ [Interview Summary](#) and Interview Summary [Addendum](#)
- ❖ [Lancaster County Government Spending & Revenue from 1960-2004](#)
- ❖ [Benchmarking the Home Rule Process In Other Counties Lessons Learned](#)
- ❖ Dissenting View: [Minority Report](#)

The Commission has determined that a home rule charter would serve the citizens of Lancaster County well as moving forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and allow for the government to respond positively to the many changes the future will bring.

The Commission will continue its work and will now focus on crafting a home rule charter to meet Lancaster County's unique needs. The decision will ultimately reside with you, the voter.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lancaster County Housing Summit – Housing Choices 101: What Everyone Needs to Do! - Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – 8 am to 3 pm – Eden Resort Inn**

Action-oriented workshops will be designed to allow ample interaction and contribution from attendees, who will work together to create effective solutions for Lancaster County's housing issues. Summit hosted by the Lancaster County Housing Coalition. For more information contact David Loughery (717) 509-8038.

## INTERESTING ARTICLES

[Outsourcing City Hall](#) - Four unincorporated communities in Atlanta have become new cities...and outsourced nearly all government services to private corporations.

## INTERESTING WEBSITES

[Farmland Information Center](#). The Farmland Information Center is a clearinghouse for information about farmland protection and stewardship. It is a partnership between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and American Farmland Trust. [For Pennsylvania Farmland Information and statistics.](#)

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decision-making for Lancaster County*  
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